

This is Rose Hearn interviewing Mr. Del Davidson 61 Princess Street
Fort Erie, Ontario, and the date is July 4th, 1985.

R.H: Hi Del, how are you?

D.D: I'm feeling pretty good this morning on a beautiful day like this.

R.H: Could you give me the date of your birth please?

D.D: Yes I was born in 1922 in a the little town of Bridgeburg....ah Courtwright
Street, two doors up from the....oh liquid veneer they used to call
it in those days, it was a factory were they made some paint.

R.H: What school did you attend?

D.D: I went to what they call Phipps Street School which later changed
it's name to Rose Seaton, and then I attended the Fort Erie High
School which of course is now the Fort Erie Secondary School, and
then I went to...well I was in grade 11 when I dropped out and went
to work for 25 years, and worked at Fleet Aircraft for 7 years then
I went on the railway for 37 years.

R.H: What was it like going to school then?

D.D: I can tell you because I went both then and now, I went back to
school in 1970 to Brock, and to Fort Erie High School. I went to
Fort Erie High School and got grade 13, a couple of grade 13 subjects
then I went to Brock. I would say there's not too much change in
the school as far as the young, the real young student is concerned.
You'd have to leave home and go a distance....the only difference
is now they're bussed...we had no buses.

R.H: Yeah, I was going to ask you. How did you get there?

D.D: We walked.

R.H: What about winter time, was it rough?

D.D: No, they kept the streets pretty well ploughed in the winter time
I think they did a fantastic job, the ploughing of the streets for
the kids to go to school, I think they still do.

R.H: How far did you have to walk?

D.D: Ah...we lived on Phipps Street, but when we were going to school
we lived on Dufferin Street which is only five-six blocks from the
five or six blocks away from the school. I think that we had very
dedicated teachers in those days, they wanted you to learn. You
know if I got a strapping...they used to use a strap in those days
I don't know whether it was a good thing or not, but it seemed to

went home you got another strap. The teachers and the parents were working together, perhaps you don't see that quite so much now as they did in those days it's sorta if you put your hand on my child why the parents are down there wanting to know why. I think some of the teachers are not...not so conscious of what their responsibility the real responsibilities are now as they were in those days they don't...we never got the strap unless we really needed it.

R.H: And what about the neighbourhood, what was that like when you were growing up, do you remember any stores you used to frequent?

D.D: Yeah Putneys store, I lived up in Phipps Street after I became old enough to be a member there, more...I remember things quite well. When I was only about 2 years old we lived on Courtwright Street and I remember the Presbyterian Church burned down and it was now were the bowling is on Courtwright Street. It started out, and I guess the caretaker went in to light the gas and he turned it on and he didn't have a match or something, and he went and got a match and came back and it blew up, and I guess it blew him out too.

R.H: Was he hurt?

D.D: He was hurt...he was injured. I don't think he died, but he was injured.

R.H: Very badly?

D.D: Sure.

R.H: Do you remember his name?

D.D: I don't remember his name...no, but I do know that the Presbyterian Church and another building in the corner of Klauck Street...

R.H: And did you go to this church? did you attend this church?

D.D: Yeah, I attended that church with my mother, I was two years old.

R.H: Where did you go after it was burned down? Do you remember which one you went to when it was burned down?

D.D: I'm not too sure...we attended when they built it back up again. It didn't take too long to build it back up again, but I think they rebuilt in a different location.

R.H: What other places did you go as a child?

D.D: From there we went over to Emerick Ave., I should say. The next place we moved to was Emerick Ave...Green Gables they called it, and I don't remember too much about that except one thing that happened. When I was about four, and my sister she was about

2, and I was afraid of the dark, and I had to go upstairs in this big huge big house and ah...my dad says go on up stairs. I said ah well I'll just have someone to go upstairs with me so my sisters only 2 she says I'll go up with you I'm not afraid of the dark so unbeknownst to anybody I grabbed a hammer, a little mallet from my tinkers toy and went upstairs and when I came back down I went up to the washroom you know...I came back down again, my dad was hiding round behind the bannister and he jumped out and he said boo. Just as he said boo like that I came down with the wooden mallet on the top of his head...cut his head all open...oh boy...he turned around and walked back and I said what's the matter Tommy...he says nothing. The blood was all coming down his forehead, I thought he was gonna kill me. He didn't give me a licking or anything. At least it's something I can remember on Emerick Ave., but we went to a...we went to the...yeah they moved the church over on Highland.

R.H: On Highland?

D.D: Yeah, it was Highland.

R.H: What kind of games did you get involved in, like street games?

D.D: Well we used to play hide and seek most of the time. We used to play a game called...with a little stick, it was a taped at both ends you hit the one end, knock it, then we had a hoop with a roll on it. Ah...we had our first car on Emerick Ave., it was an old grey Dort.

R.H: What's the name?

D.D: Grey Dort. Looks like a big bathtub with wheels on it, and I remember one time Billy...Billy Heckman we were playing in the garage and this car you know, we were pretending we were driving it, we were almost four about four years old, five years old, and Billy got in front of it and a young lad he came over and he wanted to steer the car, and he stepped on the starter and it was in gear...pushed Billy up against the door of the garage and boy we had an awful time getting him off the starter. The air was all knocked out of him and the big wheels were spinning around, I remember that. I remember my dad coming home one time after he'd been out...had a little bit too much to drink in the car came home...there were two driveways Mr. Dietenbeck lived next door and the two driveways were side by side, but there's a hedge up the middle and he got one wheel on Mr. Dietenbeck's driveway, and one on ours and drove

right up the hedge. There was quite a big todo about that. But quite a lot of memories of the old days.

R.H: What about, did you earn any pocket money as a kid doing odd jobs?

D.D: Ah...well yes when we moved from...moved from there up to Phipps street.

R.H: You moved a lot didn't you?

D.D: Yes we did. My dad used to buy a house and sell it and move to another house and he moved from...actually we moved from there to Belleville, and when we came back from Belleville we moved to Phipps Street.

R.H: Do you remember what year that was?

D.D: Well I was in first primer so that would probably be about twenty six or seven, somewhere in there. And we moved up to Phipps Street and ah...oh occasionally I was old enough then I guess to do the odd shovelling, a bit of shovelling the snow. Money in those days, the twenty sevens and on up during the depression it just wasn't to be seen...wasn't to be found anyplace.

R.H: So you didn't get any pocket money at all, did you get paid for shovelling snow?

D.D: Well I usually just shovelled my own.

R.H: Your own driveway.

D.D: No, we never seen any money, nobody had any money.

R.H: What about some of the stores? There was no work in any of the stores?

D.D: Oh heavens no. Putney had a store up on Robinson Street just up from us and we used to go there. My dad would give us some spending money. You know he'd give us an allowance...about 2 cents, you could buy a lot for 5 cents in those days.

R.H: What did you buy, can you remember?

D.D: Well I used to like...used to like black liquorice, that's about the only candy I ever ate. I never used to like chocolate bars or anything sweet, but...oh that's about the only thing I used to buy is just some liquorice or ice-cream once in a while.

R.H: Did you go go Crystal Beach?

D.D: We went to Erie Beach when we were real young, I don't think Crystal Beach was open really yet.

R.H: So Erie Beach was were you went, what was it like there?

D.D: Well when you first went in the parkway there was a...there was

a cage where the animals were in...all the monkeys and the animals and so forth and you went around that and sown and you went past all the different sort of booths that had the firing ranges and so forth the 22 target ranges or whatever...the guns they had there. Then we had the...they had these rides, they had one big ride it almost went out looked like you were going to be thrown off out into the lake.

R.H: And what was that called, do you remember?

D.D: No...the cyclone, I don't know I could ger rides mixed up.

R.H: Was there a ride called the razzle dazzle?

D.D: I was just a little wee kid at that time I guess I wouldn't be any more than 6 years old or so, but I do remember the big candy, cotton candy that's the first place I ever seen it, I remember that and some of the...now I'll tell you another thing I remember quite vividly at Erie Beach. They had a tank there, and they high divers that dove off a huge high platform and of course when you are a little kid it looks twice as high in fact you know, and when they put this belt around and they'd light it on fire before they dove and the fire went through the air. I remember that quite vividly at Erie Beach, and of course the Sandfly...

R.H: Yeah, how did you get to Erie Beach, how did you travel to Erie Beach?

D.D: My dad always had the car.

R.H: But do you know if anybody else got there in another way?

D.D: Well they had horses and wagons and things like that, horse and buggy in the old days. My grandfather had a Democrat, and a horse he called Old Rock, he was up in the...In his place at that time, you know where the ~~novacaine~~ or Novadel, Novadel I guess it is...is a factory up near the railway tracks on the Garrison Road, well my grandfather Golding, his house was there, that's where he had all his family and his little farm and so forth back in there and all that land was his. He had ten girls and 2 boys in that little house and how they ever fit in there I don't know, but he raised his family there. He had his big barn there and his horses and his Democrat, and he used to go down there using that.

R.H: And was there other transportation to Erie Beach though, like for everybody?

D.D: I don't remember whether they had a boat coming over, I think

have a dock down there, but I don't remember that boat. They did have a swimming pool, I remember the swimming pool out in the...right in the lake. They had concreted the floor of the lake concreted the floor, how they got the concrete on the floor of the lake is a...that's quite a feat putting concrete under the water, but they had a real nice big swimming pool right near in the lake then they had the big dance hall that went out...went over the water. I expect they had a boat from Buffalo that came over across there, but I don't...now if Percy Sexsmith were still alive, he just died this year, he's the fellow you should have gotten.

R.H: He just passed away did he?

D.D: Yes, he was the immigration man for that...he used to tell us by the hour for...oh about these things, his experiences...that was in Crystal Beach he was most interested in. That's all I remember about Erie Beach.

R.H: So what about Crystal Beach, do you remember anything about Crystal Beach the amusement park?

D.D: Yeah, we used to go up there all the time.

R.H: How old would you be, like when you went up there?

R.H: I worked up there when I was fifteen, yeah I worked for Jack Millington in his ice-cream parlour.

R.H: And what was the wages like then?

D.D: I think I got 75 cents a day...75 cents a day, and I started at...I started at 11:00 in the morning, and I worked till 11:00 at night. 12 hours a day, and I got I think it was 75 cents or a dollar. It was a very very small amount.

R.H: How old were you?

D.D: Fifteen. And I used to serve the...cook the hamburgers and you know, make the sandwiches and things like that and working that hard, and one day he told me I had to wash the dish cloths, and the dish towels so I told him I quit. I wouldn't do it anymore it was too much, that was putting too much on me. It was a lot of work, I washed the dishes, and did the cooking, served the people, and so forth and then...I mean working twelve hours a day I just went...I just went to the place I was boarding at out there and I went to sleep, I think I paid 3 dollars a week board.

R.H: So you boarded up there, do you remember who owned the boarding house?

R.H: Where was the house?

D.D: It was on Derby Circle, Derby Road Circle up there, that circle goes around and it was on right on the... you come off of that road where Jack Millington's house...eh restaurant was, and you went around I think one or two streets and there was this big yellow house there, I don't even know if it is still there. The Post Office is there now. I don't know but it was that house there.

R.H: So you did board there for a week like each?

D.D: No, I boarded there for a...I think it was 3 weeks in the summer when I was working for Jack Millington. I think I was getting something like 12 dollars a week or something like that and gave her 3 dollars a week for board.

R.H: Did you get a chance to go on any of the rides there?

D.D: No, never got out of the bed...bed and work, that's about all I did there until after...of course I quit. But after that we used to go up as kids, like a group of...I'd have a girlfriend and a bunch of other fellows with their girls, and we'd all go up and we'd go on the Tunnel of Love and we'd go on the caterpillar and some of those rides like that.

R.H: Was there a Ferris Wheel?

D.D: Ferris Wheel? Yeah, I went on the Ferris Wheel a couple of times, but I wasn't too taken up with that sorta thing.

R.H: And when did you start working for the railroad Del?

D.D: 1947. Started working for the railroad in 1947, January 31st.

R.H: How many years did you work there?

D.D: 37 years. Shovelling coal it was the steam at that time.

R.H: What was your occupation then?

D.D: I went on as a fireman, firing the steam engines, and the...yes the stokers were coming in pretty good then we had probably half and half, steam and stokers, maybe less than half of shovelling the steam without the stokers because stokers were pretty rough too, if they broke down you'd have to shovel over top of them. Coal...some say the good old days, but by golly I don't know, when the deisels came in they were pretty good days.

R.H: So it was very hard work?

D.D: Oh it was terrible. We went down in to Hamilton...Hamilton...you

and sweat came out...the blood and the sweat would come out together and it would stick to my socks, and it would stick to my heel, and when I got over to Toronto I had to put my feet in a...sit and soak my socks off so I could get them off. Many times in the summertime I had to do that.

R.H: Was the pay good though, was the pay very good?

D.D: Well it was better than anything else in...and anyone without an education was lucky to get a job like that. My dad was an engineer on the railway, and through him I was able to get a job...ah...I didn't go in and mention it, but of course it's a known thing how you're Tommy Davidson's son and how you file for exams, so they gave it to me, and my son of course, he's an engineer on the railway now and it seems that if your family's in there you seem to have a better chance to get in. If you ah...if you're in that business, same here with your job, you're in the library business, I'm not in the library, we were both interviewed and you got the job. It's a sorta...sort of a thing that happens. Yeah, the pay was alright but I didn't like it. I don't like being tortured. Anybody doesn't like being tortured.

R.H: So you didn't like the job?

D.D: I didn't care for the

R.H: The job itself?

D.D: The job? no I didn't care for it at all. I had to do it because I had a wife and family, and we were trying to keep them together here in Fort Erie, but had I finished school I would've had a better chance of getting a better job.

R.H: So what grade did you get to then?

D.D: Oh I got to eleven, I quit in eleven.

R.H: Eleven?

D.D: I quit in eleven, but in 1970 then on the railway I went back to school again and I got a couple of grade 13 subjects, and went back to University, Brock University and graduated from there. Got a B.A. in Psychology. Now I'm pensioned off I can go or so whatever I want.

R.H: Getting back to the railway, do you know anything about the Pegleg railroad?

D.D: The Pegleg railroad was a railway that went along from...it was

all the way up to Fort Erie, along the back...if you go behind Niagara Christian College you'll see the railbed back there yet, and it went along the back through there...the old station...you know one of the old stations or the old places down there by a Creek. There is a picture in one of these books of the Pegleg railway, and that was the railway then now I don't remember that railway myself, and I don't remember the trains going back and forth there, but I guess it was in our time. But yes that was the railway that went down Ridgeway and it went right up...I'm not sure whether it just went to Fort Erie or whether it went on further. I think there's an account in one of my books here of the Pegleg railroad.

R.H: What about the Grand Trunk?

D.D: The Grand Trunk was a railway that they eventually amalgamated the Grand Trunk, and some other railroads amalgamated to form the Canadian National Railway. The Grand Trunk was the first one, my dad started on that...this is his ...he started on the railway in nineteen hundred and.....

R.H: Your father did?

D.D: Yeah, I think it was nineteen hundred and seven or three or seven or something like that, he started on the railway, had forty to forty five years on the railway. But this is his certificate. I'm keeping that, I have my own certificate, and when my son gets his we are going to get them mounted together, but ah.....

R.H: What about the Sandfly special, do you know anything at all?

D.D: The Sandfly special was that little railway...I understand it was, but now I can't remember you know first handedly but it was the one that ran from...the Ferry boat...where Agrette's store is down there. It ran from the Ferry boat up to Erie Beach so the people caught the Ferry boat up to Erie Beach. That's probably what you were referring to when you said any other transportation, yeah that was the Sandfly special that went up there by the rail from Erie Beach so...I remember one time when my dad went on one of his sprees, and got a little too much to drink and the people were all waiting to go, and he went over and got on and drove them all up to Erie Beach when the engineer was some place else. He sort of stole the engine, and took it up there. He took the people up there, I guess it was quite a todo about that, but he...he didn't get into too much trouble over that incident. They pretty well know

R.H: Did you know anything about the smuggling that went on during prohibition at all, did you hear any stories?

D.D: Yes I heard an interesting story one time. It was during prohibition when they couldn't have any kind of whiskey over in the States but they could come over and buy it and take over if they didn't get caught. That was called smuggling. But one day there was a group of fellows over in ah...this was ah...within our family so I can't mention too many names, but any way one of my uncles was over there, and somebody in the group said "I can go over and buy a bottle of Canadian Club right in Fort Erie bring it right back through customs and declare it, and I'll bring it over and they...well they said he was crazy...he can't do that, so he made them all a bet. They all bet good high money. They put a bet on that one because there's no way he could declare that. So he came over, and two of them came over with him to be sure he was gonna do what he was told...what he said he was gonna do . So they came over and had a few drinks over here and they went down to the liquor store and they bought this bottle of Canadian Club...said alright, so he put it down in his shirt, under his belt, put his coat over it, he ran over to the...to the immigration... to the customs on the other side. He said "do you have anything to declare?" he said "yes I've got a bottle of Canadian Club right here" he says patting his stomache. "Well" he says "get going" he says, he kept patting his stomache. Well the guy thought he had drank it, and he took it right through, so he won the bet. I thought that was kinda of cute.

R.H: How much was the bet for?

D.D: Oh I have no idea, but in those days a dollar was quite a bit. It was like a hundred dollars now a days. So that was quite a story. Another story that my uncle told me. He was...he was quite a bit in this smuggling deal. There was a fellow took a load of manure, horse and wagon full of manure piled right up across the bridge...and ah...the customs man said "take it off there, unload it, we gotta see what's under there." So they unload it, the whole thing right there at the customs

and he says "there's nothing under there" so he says "ok, load her up, take it away." He says "no, we unloaded it, we're too tired, we can't load it up, you fellows have to load it up." He says "we're not loading it up." He says "okay, it stays right here then," but of course the smell of that...wouldn't allow it to stay there so they had to get out and the customs men all had to load it right up. So he took it away, came back to go through with another load on the way...he says "where do you want us to put this." He says "get going with that stuff, take it outa here." He had 28 cases of beer underneath that load...second load you see. So there was a lot of smuggling going on. There was a lot of different ways of getting it across the border I guess.

R.H: Did you ever go to the dancing at Crystal Beach Ballroom?

D.D: No, I don't dance, I never danced. I never even got too interested in dancing. I did a lot of swimming most of the time.

R.H: Where did you swim?

D.D: I swam every place there was water deep enough to swim in. I swam up in Erie Beach, I swam in the river here, and all along there I was a lifeguard...along here for some thirty years. I taught three generations of people here how to swim.

R.H: What about down in the blvd. there where they all swam, is that the baby-hole?

D.D: Where, down here in the Southend? it's the baby-hole yeah...I was a guard down there. They had quite a deal down there in 1940...in the forties. Sometime when the people...the young punks from Busti Ave. were coming over and they were making it so miserable for our kids around this area they couldn't go swimming there.

R.H: What about the stores then, do you remember the Sullivan's?

D.D: Charlie Sullivan had his fish and chip store down there and eh...25cents for fish and chips in those days, and he used to sell chips out the back to people that were swimming and so forth.

R.H: You could go inside and eat too though?

D.D: You could if you were properly dressed. He wouldn't allow you to go in with your bathing suit.

R.H: No bare-feet?

D.D: No bare-feet, no...you had to be...you know reasonably dressed to go in, before he would allow you to go in. That was a long time ago too.

R.H: What about...do you remember any of the ferry boats. Yeah, we used to go over the...I had a girlfriend over there, Pat Flynn. She lived on Herkimer I think it was, and her dad had a grocery store so I went over on the ferry boat quite a lot. It was a nickel to go over on the ferry boat. The New Orleans, The City of Toledo, those were two of the ferry boats that went over there.

R.H: Where did they dock over there?

D.D: Over on the other side? those docks I think are still intact if i'm not mistaken. They docked over there where the lift bridge is on the Canal on the other side. Used to flow right up and then come right back in and then the front of the ferry boat would come down and you'd drive your car off, the thing would go down and you'd walk off the top...you'd be on the top eh...the one, the one here. The one story about the ferry boat I think I was talking to you about, it was just the time they had the funeral up at eh...up in Greenwood...they were having a burial up at Greenwood and the funeral was coming from where there's now Davidson's funeral home, it was Atwood's in those days and eh...I think it was James... John. T. James funeral home before that if I'm not mistaken. I...don't quote me on that, but I think it was James then Atwood's funeral home and then these people all lined up in a funeral procession and they were going down Wintemute Street, and they they turned down Niagara Blvd., and they're doing this funeral procession, and they're gonna turn up Gilmore Rd...well about...somebody came along and...but it wasn't in the procession, and got their car in...in the procession. The people all turned up Gilmore Rd. to go to the funeral but this fellow's involved in the funeral so he kept going straight and the one's that were behind him followed him, and what he wanted to do was to go on the ferry boat so he went down around, and they had quite eh...quite a pathway

which went down and way out around just to go down to the ferry you had to take eh...a bit of a curve so he went down and all these cars from the funeral went down under the ferry eh...entrance way.

R.H: Kind of like the Pied Piper?

D.D: Yeah, here all these people wanna go to the funeral, now they're going to the ferry so that was quite eh...quite an experience that was way back in about 37 or so maybe 32 even but so ...you imagine the old cars to in those days. That was...that was a drug store down there where Louie Ziff is now. That used to be a drugstore.

R.H: Do you remember the name of the drugstore?

D.D: Well, the last name...it was...I'm trying to think of the old fellow that had it, The original fellow...the lastname was eh...oh gosh...isn't that funny? The names escape me so...eh I wish Lois was here now. she knows the names of all those. She could tell you the names of the original old fellow who owned that..that's when old Dr. Douglas was around.

R.H: Dr. Douglas?

D.D: Dr. Douglas of course was the doctor that started the hospital. This guy was a druggest when he was here. This old drugstore...

R.H: This was on Jarvis Street?

D.D: No, down here where the ferry boats...where Louie Ziff is.

R.H: Oh! it's down there?

D.D: Louis Ziff is down there, yeah. And there was a drugstore there. But I cannot remember the names of those two, it'll come to me though.

R.H: How long were the Chinese stores there, were they always there?

D.D: No, no they weren't always there. There was some there...there was a Chinese laundry there once. Charlie Pong had a laundry up on Jarvis Street eh...right in there the place where they sell electronic things in there now. Where that big television disc is. Well anyway there was a Chinese laundry, Charlie Pong, then there was an allyway that you went through then there was... Everett's Dairy was right there.

R.H: The dairy?

D.D: Everett's Dairy yeah, and next to Everett's Dairy was Madeline Morningstar's Photo Shop in there, and next to it...to eh...Madeline Morningstar's I think was Mullet's grocery store...Mullet's grocery.

store and next to Mullet's was Roy Le Zeur's Barber Shop.

R.H: So is that where you did your shopping, Mullet's ?

D.D: We went to Mullet's quite a bit yeah way back in the depression days, the nineteen thirties.

R.H: Was there a local butcher?

D.D: Yeah, Roy Fretz, Roy Fretz was on the other side of Charlie Pong's place. There was... Freddy White had a store up there, he had a little bit of a butcher shop and a grocery store there. We used to go to Freddy White's and then up a little ways further that was... that was Roy Fretz. He was a good butcher. Then quite a while later...later on they ah...these other people came in and...ah who's the guy who's with Louis Ziff? What's his name? I should know those people, I've known them since they were this high. But they came in and started a grocery store. I think they took over from Roy Fretz, and then they moved up across from the paper. Well that paper, that was downtown here too.

R.H: The newspaper?

D.D: The newspaper yeah, that's when ah...

R.H: Was it always called The Times Review?

D.D: It was the Times Review but eh...I'm just trying to remember the people who had that. Now If I had more time I could get all the stuff written down on notes for you.

R.H: How often did the paper come out?

D.D: Once a week.

R.H: The same?

D.D: Yeah.

R.H: Do you remember how much it cost at all?

D.D: A nickel I think it was.

R.H: A nickel?

D.D: It was a nickel, always a nickel.

R.H: Did they have delivery boys or did they deliver it like they do now, like pick it up?

D.D: I think you could subscribe to it by mail, but I think you had to pick it up in the different paper stalls.

R.H: So anyway when you left the railroad you mentioned that you went to Brock?

D.D: I went to Brock when I was working on the railway. I left the railway in 1983, December 1983. I went to Brock in 1970.

R.H: Did you get involved in teaching?

D.D: Yeah I taught at Niagara Christian College, I taught in Fort Erie High School, and I taught the perceptually handicapped for a period of seven years. I taught school while I was working on the railway fulltime... I taught school full-time...same.

R.H: What did you teach?

D.D: Physical Education. Both boys and girls. Coached all our teams, and I taught grade 9 guidance, and health.

R.H: And did you find that when you were on the teaching side of it that by that time there was more equipment available, like since you were a kid, as far as sports equipment?

D.D: Oh yes, there was a...well it's a funny thing you know, there's more equipment available, but the money wasn't there to buy it so actually I was better equipped when I was going to school then when I was teaching because we had more equipment than the kids had and we were instrumental in getting a lot of equipment for them. Getting things together for money-raising activities and we did get some pommel horses, and bar...parallel bars...that sorta thing we had when I was going to school that they didn't have at the...no even when I...even now I'm still on the supply teacher's list now. I go out and teach occasionally. The equipment now...yes as far as sports equipment in football and those different field games and so forth, yes there's more equipment available for that, but as far as gym equipment is concerned I think it's pretty basic and ah...they took the swimming pool, the swimming pool was... when I was going to school it wasn't available though it is available now. We took the handicapped children down to the swimming pool, the perceptually handicapped and eh... NCC we had to wait for them in the wintertime down at the pool. But you were asking about also...I see questions about the Peace Bridge opening in 1927.

R.H: Do you remember anything about the Peace Bridge?

D.D: I don't remember a great deal about it, but I do remember the ...the different changes about...of the, of it down here and I also wanted to tell you that this house that you're in right now was on that sight. It's the house that was moved from that Peace Bridge sight over to here.

R.H: This house?

D.D: this house right here yeah.

R.H: So how old is this house?

D.D: Well it was built in the... late eighteen hundreds or early nineteen is the closest they can come to it. Louis McDermott says it's around eighteen ninety. The town has given me a letter back...nineteen ten or something like that.

R.H: So it was moved in 1927?

D.D: 1927. It was moved from there over to here, to this location. So this house was on the Peace Bridge.

R.H: and who was in here then, who moved it, do you know, do you remember?

D.D: I don't know who moved it but I..

R.H: No, who got it moved, the owner, you don't know?

D.D: Well it's on our...it's on our list, yeah I just about had her name on the tip of my tongue now it's left me now, but we have it on the deed, and the search and so forth.

R.H: So this house is?

D.D: It's old.

R.H: Almost a hundred years old?

D.D: nine foot ceilings, thirteen rooms, it's a big old house.

R.H: Thirteen rooms?

D.D: Well I think we took one room out, so we took a partition out so there is about twelve rooms in it now.

R.H: So getting back to the Peace Bridge, do you remember...I know you were what five years old?

D.D: Five, yeah when it was built...yeah when it was like the...

R.H: The opening?

D.D: The opening was...The Prince of Wales came over to open it. I remember...

R.H: Did you see him at all or is that?

D.D: Well there was a big crowd around, and they had this loudspeaker arrangement with certain...it's not like they have now a days, but one of the things I certainly remember is either hearing him or seeing it, or having it read in the paper by my parents, or somebody says that what he...the most outstanding thing that he noticed in Canada while he was here...is how the parents obey their children.

R.H: Is there anything else you can remember, like a lot of excitement or was there any fireworks that day, or brass bands, or anything like that?

D.D: There was a lotta music, yeah there was a lotta music, and so forth

There was a lot of disappointment too. We were down from the Northend, and a lot of people wouldn't even come up because they wanted that bridge to come across where the railroad bridge comes across beside it down at the Northend you see, and the decision was made to have it up here. So it was a disappointment as well. The original plans, well they hoped that the original plans would be for them to have it down at the Northend, the railroad bridge was down there and they thought the other should be put down there, but it didn't happen that way.

R.H: So that was quite a big day. So do you think it was better that the bridge was built?

D.D: Yeah, I think it was better that the bridge was built, but I'm not too sure eh...where...you know, where the location would be if they built another bridge. I don't know if they should add to this one...you know to enlarge to this one. Of course the queen Elizabeth is here do...eh...economically whether it would help both sides of the bridge up a little bit if they built one now at the other end. I don't know, I mean you have to look at that...but eh...I don't know what would happen if they had've built it at the other end, if it would have been a different development on both the States and Canada, I mean a different part of the...of the eh...city and the eh...town. It didn't seem to do too much for the development of this end of the town, and eh...it didn't change to much.

R.H: It didn't change any...like there wasn't a lot of influx of...businesses afterwards, or like a lot of money around?

D.D: You don't see it here. You don't see the eh...a great...eh...forward economics.

R.H: It's almost just like a gateway, do you feel it's just like a gateway?

D.D: It's through.

R.H: Is it through?

D.D: I think if they had've built one at the other end they would have to go there, and maybe go...come down this way, or perhaps a little bit, it would come down this way. I don't know what would've happened if the bridge was down there. I suppose they would've taken the Queen Elizabeth down that way so maybe it would have happened the same way down there.

R.H: What about the people that were running the ferry boats, were they happy?

D.D: Well the ferry boats eventually did go out of business as is obvious.

R.H: But that was what...nineteen forty...?

D.D: Yeah it was a long long time afterwards, twenty years afterwards.

R.H: So it didn't really hurt them at the time, didn't hurt them financially or job wise?

D.D: There was a lot of business to come over, there was a lot of traffic to come over, and the cars took the , took the bridge over, and a lot of people didn't have cars for a long time after that and they took the ferry boat over, and the ferry boat was kind of a you know a nostalgic type of a thing so they...we took the ferry boat over a lot you know back and forth right up until we were teenagers...it was fun.

R.H: Until they discontinued them?

D.D: Well one winter, one of them got away I guess, and the ice took it right down to the...

R.H: Yeah I was gonna say, what about the ice-flow, that would hurt...they didn't go back and forth in the winter then, did they?

D.D: I'm trying to think about that...I think they did...I think they did because I don't think there was much, I think there was just some... one part of the spring when the ice started to come down and break up. When it came down they pretty well had to tie off. I think they went all winter when there was no bridge. You know the boats went all winter long. I remember the New Orleans going down...

R.H: That was kind of dangerous though, wasn't it, or was it?

D.D: They didn't seem to have any problems, just the one time I can remember.

R.H: Do you anything about, getting back to Crystal Beach, do you anything about the riot?

D.D: Oh yeah, I was working at Fleet when that happened, and the Chief of Police was working at Fleet...Floyd Gerrard his name was, and he used to get in so much trouble because he'd take his uniform off and he was a big husky guy, and he would just lambaste into a bunch of those people.

R.H: Do you know what started it?

D.D: Well the Jews and the Italians were fighting, and another time the black population came over, but they didn't cause too much of a problem.

R.H: Were they Americans?

D.D: Americans, it was all Americans who was...both sides were Americans it wasn't eh...they weren't fighting with the Canadians or anything...it was the Jewish Americans, and the Italian Americans who came over, and they were fighting, took up all the street and nobody could walk down. This policeman he walked down...a big fella...he used to work at Fleet Einar...oh what's his name...Einar something...the big Swede, big fella...his legs...

R.H: He was the Chief of Police?

D.D: No he was just working with me and he walked down and they split. He just went out in the middle of the street when he walked out and just kept right on by them.

R.H: So how old were you when this riot went on?

D.D: I'd probably be...I started at Fleet when I was seventeen...I'd probably be...oh anywhere between eighteen and twenty.

R.H: and you worked at Fleet too?

D.D: yes.

R.H: When did Fleet come into town, do you remember?

D.D: Gee I don't know. I started at Fleet in nineteen...I was 7 years out there so 7 years back in forty seven, you're going to 1940 I guess. I started at Fleet, and eh...I worked out there as a sheet-metal worker. I was a stock-clerk for a while. At seventeen I worked outside until I got in the sheet-metal department.

R.H: Did you like working sheet-metal or the railroad?

D.D: No, I liked the railroad better. I wasn't really fond of either but the railroad...I liked Fleet because of the...what you learned there as far as sheet-metal work, and soldering, and so forth. That has...that part that I learned made it possible for me to buy this house, because I rented a sheet-metal shop while I was working on the railway. I worked afternoons and then I'd run the sheet-metal shop in the day-time and ah...I put about 10 miles of eavestrough up in this town.

R.H: Where was this shop you had, where was that?

D.D: Down in Emerick Ave. It's old Grimmel...you know Grimmels dead...he used to have...he used to be a plumber, and he had a sheet-metal shop right in the back of his place there, so I rented that. And we rejuvenated it, and I sorted of made up my own...my own ends and downspouts and things like that, and I put up eavestrough.

Well I learned all that you see at Fleet and eh...of course Ted Hilton was a sheet-metal boss in there and when I was on...on a Hamilton job on the railway we had a big long layover in Hamilton. I jumped on the bus and went down to Ted Hilton's sheet-metal shop after Fleet and he taught me all this...the tricks and things in the trade of putting eavestrough up. Of course when I put eavestrough up here I wasn't doing anybody out of any work because the sheet-metal people hate putting eavestrough up. It's a nasty job. So I didn't mind putting it up and I put it up and got enough money to put down...

R.H: How long were you in that business?

D.D: Oh I'd say about three...I did that for about three years I guess until I got enough money to buy a house.

R.H: And you were still working at Fleet during that?

D.D: No I was still on the railway.

R.H: And you were on the railroad, the railway?

D.D: Yeah.

R.H: Do you know anything about the Casino on Niagara Blvd. that's now Niagara Christian College?

D.D: Oh yeah, yeah sure. They built that...a lot of people put their money into that.

R.H: A lot of local people?

D.D: A lot of local people, business men I guess put their money into that. It was going to be a big gambling casino down along...down along the river there and eh...

R.H: Do you know any of the people who invested in there?

D.D: No I couldn't...I couldn't remember that, it was quite a long long time ago, but they did build it, and I guess they opened it up or something and they had a raid on it and closed it down, and it was quite a...quite a controversial thing in those days. You get a lot of different stories, but nevertheless it was supposed to be a gambling casino when it was first built. But then Bishop Swalm of the Brethern in Christ Church...eh they had a meeting and they wanted to buy a place to start a Christian school so they decided on this sight. So this was ironic because here's a gambling casino, now they want to start a Christian school, and they struck a price of what they would wanna pay for it and they...I remember Bishop Swalm saying at one of the meetings and he said that...one of the persons said that the only thing he could see a disadvantage of...he says is the

water. Where are you going to get the water? Bishop Swalm says says there's the Niagara river right there and that's the last thing we need to worry about is water. He said "there's all kinds of water." Everybody had a big laugh over that, but David...lets see Brooks Cromady, David Cromady...he's ah he's a...not a judge but a magistrate down in Toronto now, but he was in Welland...he was a lawyer in Welland. He looked after the transaction, the business transaction and I was in the office with David one time and we were talking about this and I told him I was teaching at Niagara Christian College...David Cromady said that this character came in with the money all wrapped up in a newspaper and it was cash. He says it was thirty or forty thousand dollars all wrapped up in a newspaper that they were gonna... no he took it away in newspaper that's what it was. They gave him the money, he wanted cash, he didn't want a cheque he wanted cash. So they gave him the cash and he wrapped it all up in a newspaper and took it away.

R.H: Was the Casino then ever built, was it ever built?

D.D: Oh yeah it was built, but it wasn't completely finished. I don't think it was completely finished, but they opened up before...it was finished.

R.H: Why do you think, why do you think it wasn't finished?

D.D: Somebody in this town knows, I wish my uncle was alive. He knows the whole story of it, but he says that...I think he was saying that it did open up and they took some bets and the police were right there to raid the place.

R.H: You mean it wasn't legal?

D.D: No no the whole gambling thing, the whole concept was illegal, but they were thinking that they were gonna get a license or something like that, and they didn't get a license, but they went ahead anyway or something and they went in and raided them, and I guess...ah I don't know what happened...I just don't know what happened but it never really got off the ground.

R.H: So then Niagara Christian Col lege...?

D.D: They bought the property, and they took it over, and made a school out of it. But it's funny, it started out to be a gambling...and turned out to be a Niagara Christian College. Some of the...I wish I could remember some of the stories that Bishop Swalm was talking to me about, and David Comady...he and I would sit in his office

and listen to him telling about it.

R.H: Aside from the railroad and Fleet, what was the other businesses like, industries that kept the town going?

D.D: One of the biggest industries was...there was the customs of course...the customs immigration that was a big business, but the biggest business in town I guess is still the biggest business in the town is the Board of Education, the schools. I think they hired more people and the school system...I think the school system should be you know looked after...should be considered.

R.H: But what about people that weren't like teachers...like say I guess when did the hospital...when was that built, do you know any, do you know the year when that was built?

D.D: The hospital is a good example of hiring people too. Shortly after Dr. Douglas died...there's quite a story about that now I'm...I can't think of who the person is to talk to, but that hospital was supposed to be built on a different piece of ground, and there was quite an argument about that before it was built too. I can't think of the person who was telling me that story. If they're still alive I don't know, but they were telling me the story about that and it was quite an involved tale. I wish I'd have had my tape-recorder on when these people were talking.

R.H: Where did people go before they had the hospital?

D.D: I tell ya...up on Phipps Street, there was a...Mrs. Moir...Betty Moir, well she had a daughter Betty...I went to school with her and she was a registered nurse and she had a big house up on the other end of Phipps Street right across from the...Putney's store, and she had her...it wasn't a hospital sort of thing but it was a place where she had beds and so forth and if people were ill, and they couldn't be moved and she looked after them if they needed, you know constant care. She started the...

R.H: Like a convalescent home?

D.D: Yes sorta like that, but it wasn't for older people. It was for any person who was sick. So she started that, but if anybody was really eh...you know really sick, and they needed very good...hospitalization they were taken to Buffalo most of the time.

R.H: Was there any time when you were hurt as a child, was there any old cures your mother used?

D.D: Well Dr. Derbyshire across the street was an anesthetist for all

the doctors here because he understood anesthetics. Now when I was a young kid about thirteen...well I was thirteen and I remember that I was jumping off the roof and Charlie Moir lived next door...he was our neighbour. I was jumping off of his roof into his leaves.

R.H: Where was that then, what street was this, Emerick?

D.D: Dufferin Street.

R.H: Dufferin?

D.D: Yeah I was jumping off the roof into a pile of leaves, and the kids were all having a great time, well I jumped...I was gonna jump a way up high and I caught the back of my heel on a guy wire, and I flipped right over and landed right on the cement sidewalk with my hand. I broke my arm, this arm right off. I broke these two bones right off, and shoved them right up to here...my hand...the tips of my fingers right here and my arm was that big (swollen). Well Dr.Collins was up there where the submarine place is up on...across from the Church on Dufferin Street there. Well Dr. Collins was in there, that was his office. So they called him, and he came outa there screaming, and hollering. Thirteen years old, and my arm up like that you know, I thought I was killed, I thought my neck was broken. Well anyway he pulled this hand down and I tightened right up, and I was fairly strong, thirteen years old and I worked in a bake-shop behind there, and I used to carry three 100 pounds of flour at one time. I was fairly strong...well I'd tighten up, and I'd pull the thing back up again...boy he'd get so mad well finally he got it down, and he got the splint on it, and he...he just had a splint on it, not a cast or anything and he tightened it all up. Well I was in absolute agony all night long, and I had to go and get a picture of it. So he took the picture, and he found out that all the nerves...

R.H: Where did you go to get the picture?

D.D: When I was thirteen? They had the hospital then. So I had the picture taken no...yes they did have the hospital I'm sure they did but I had the picture taken anyway...yeah they had the hospital. Well Dr. Collins said it's gotta be rebroken. It had knitted together a bit, but you know in three days it doesn't knit together too much but it had to be re-broken, and all those nerves taken, and placed, and reset, but he said "we are gonna have to pull them all." So Dr. Derbyshire came down and they put me on the kitchen table. I didn't go in the hospital cause they didn't have any insurance

or anything in those days. You know the hospital...it would have put you right out of business. They put me on the kitchen table, and they gave me the anesthetic right in the kitchen, and set my arm. That's the arm right there, (shows right arm) and you can't even tell it was broken.

R.H: Was it in a cast after that?

D.D: No a splint. They put it in a splint and tightened it right down with tape.

R.H: That's what they did then,they didn't put it in a cast?

D.D: Put it around the end, and taped my fingers around it, and everything like that but I didn't have a cast on it.

R.H: Do you know how long you had the splint on it?

D.D: Six weeks. Six weeks till it was healed up.

R.H: You said you worked in a bakery, do...?

D.D: Yeah old Simmonds.

R.H: What was the name of it?

D.D: Simmonds had the bake-shop, and then...when we moved down it belonged to a fella named Simmonds...Simmonds bake-shop.

R.H: What street was it on?

D.D: On Jarvis Street, and right next door to the bake-shop was McMorrins clothing store, then the bake-shop. I just forget what was the other one next to it, I think it was a restuarant or something, but eh...Simmonds sold it to Morans, and it was Morans bake-shop, and I was only thirteen when he asked me if I would come over and slice the bread, and wrap it, and clean the pans out, and stuff like that, and carry the coke in for the...A funny thing happened, George Devereaux had just been hired. He was doing my job, and I of course I was hired to do that job while he was moved up a step, and the new fella always has to do the joe jobs you see.

R.H: What joe jobs did you do?

D.D: Well I scraped the flour, and I scraped the pans, and I carried in the coke, and I carried in the flour, and so forth. I sliced the bread. One of the times I filled the jelly doughnuts, and he told me just to give them a little wee...put the water with the stuff you know...give them just a little wee shot like that you know, and I said "just like that" and he said "perfect, just like that , and no more." Well when he went I just pumped them right up full, and they were hot, and when we took them in, and put them out in the glass case, and

and about half an hour later Alma Near...who was that? Alma...who ever, I forget what her name was...Alma Near she let a big scream out, and here they had cooled down, and shot the jelly all the way down the glass case. I almost got fired over that. Well anyway George Devereaux worked at noon, and when noon-time came around he sat close to this old Scot. He was a real old country Scot you see...Henderson, his name was Henderson... Andy Henderson they called him.

R.H: So what did he do?

D.D: He was the Baker. He done all the baking. He baked the buns, and...finally he got me baking pumpkin pies that's why I do all the cooking at home now. That's where I learned my baking, and cooking...and eh...anyway noon came along, and I saw this George getting closer to the Baker, looking at the clock, and looking at me, and you know I says somethings gonna happen here, what's going on? So anyway noon came along and the old Scotsman looks around at me, and he says (Del quoted the Scotsman but it couldn't be deciphered). I said "okay" so I went upstairs, and I got his lunch, and I brought it down and gave it to him, and George Devereaux looked at me and he said "how in the world did you ever know what he was talking about" I said "what do you mean, he spoke as clear as anything. All my dad's folks talk like that up in the Ottawa Valley. He couldn't get over that, but I could understand every word he said.

R.H: How much money did you make there?

D.D: I started out at 75 cents a day, and I was there for about two or three weeks and he gave me a dollar and a half a day. I started at 5 in the morning and worked till 5 at night, and Saturdays.

R.H: Did you save any of your money that you made?

D.D: Yeah I put money in the bank.

R.H: What bank?

D.D: The first bank...it was the Bank of Commerce mine was down in Fort Erie, where the Gas Company...no...I guess Simpson Sears...no it's a parking lot right now where the Bank of Commerce was.

R.H: Where is that?

D.D: Right next to Sears on Jarvis Street. I started my bank account there, and I put so much in everytime I got something, and I might get a little bit of money off my dad and go take guitar lessons, and put the rest of the money in the bank. Then I worked for

the Bellard Theatre delivering handbills. That used to get me 75 cents for doing that, and two free tickets.

R.H: What was the name of the Theatre?

D.D: Bellard.

R.H: Where was that?

D.D: Dufferin Street.

R.H: Oh, on Dufferin?

D.D: Yeah there's a parking lot there now.

R.H: Was it a movie theatre?

D.D: Yeah it was a movie theatre, the first one in Fort Erie. The Ziffs had that...David, Louis. I'd be going to school from there walking up to Phipps Street school, and Dave and Louis, and Danny and all of them would be out there shining up the sign for the theatre. Reva Atwood used to play the piano down there. That was the music we had when they had these horses going along you know, and chasing the bad guys.

R.H: Silent movies?

D.D: Some of them were silent movies, a lot of them were silent movies, and she'd be playing the piano away there...Reva Atwood, yeah I remember that.

R.H: How much did you pay to get in there?

D.D: I think it was 15 cents to get in but...

R.H: Was it benches or was it seats?

D.D: They were seats, but they were hard seats. You know they weren't fancy seats. Later on I think they got some good seats in there. They had a little candy store at the side. They had the...

R.H: In the theatre?

D.D: Yeah you'd go in the theatre, and you got your tickets you know and you went in...went down the two aisle, but on the side there was a candy store where you could buy popcorn, and candy, and Louis Ziff's mother took the tickets, and his sister...she was a beautiful girl...his sister used to run the candy store once in a while or sometimes her mother would be there.

R.H: Was anybody the usher, did they have an usher in those days where they took you to your seats with a flashlight?

D.D: Yes, I think some of the boys did that sometimes like Louis, and Dave they were young and they used to do that.

R.H: Do you remember any of the movies?

D.D: Oh yeah, I used to go up every week to see Rin tin tin, Tom Mix...they used to have Tom Mix movies you know, and some cowboy movies.

R.H: Tarzan?

D.D: Oh yeah, we seen Tarzan, and I'll tell you another was Sonja Henie when she first came out.

R.H: Who?

D.D: Sonja Henie.

R.H: Sonja Henie?

D.D: Yeah when she first came out I used to never miss her. I fell in love with her the first time I saw her skating.

R.H: She was in the talking movies though?

D.D: Yeah.

R.H: So when did this theatre close any idea?

D.D: Louis would be able to tell you right on so would...what's his name down here, Monty Lewis...Monty Lewis married this Ziff girl you see...

R.H: You don't have any idea what it would...?

D.D: I'm trying to think now, I can't... I can't think exactly what it was but it was eh...well it was a dark spot in their history ...what it did because it was really eh...actually they moved it down from there down to this one down here then it turned into a bowling alley after it was a movie. It didn't make it as a movie so they made it as a bowling alley down here on the Niagara Blvd. I guess they still own that building, I don't know.

R.H: Is that the one on Klauck?

D.D: No, down on Niagara here.

R.H: Oh yeah, so that's where they moved it to?

D.D: Yeah that's where they moved it to. Now it's closed down there on them. They tore it down I guess and made apartments after Don Dean. That's where eh...McDermott's...Louis Mc Dermott's home is right there yeah right next to it right next door. I guess eh...the building was turned around, renovated or something. They had the Y.M.C.A somewhere around there. I don't know whether it was that building or not afterwards, but they tore it all down.

R.H: So were there any other places you went, like in the winter time. What was the biggest thing you did for recreation like entertainment?

D.D: When we lived on Dufferin Street, the biggest...the most winter

fun we had when I was a kid...we used to have a hill on Dufferin Street, and everyone from all over came to slide on this hill on their sleds. On the town like people had to go on what they called relief...they didn't have this handout that they have today. You had to go on relief and you had to work, and they gave you a slip and you took it to the store and you got the groceries and you gave the slip. They didn't get any money like now, whatever you call it.

R.H: What kind of work did you do?

D.D: Well this like... part of the work that people had to do that were on relief...they'd go, and gather up all of the ashes that the people put out, they burnt coal in those days, and they'd gather up the ashes, sprinkle them on the roadway so that the cars wouldn't slip. Same as they put salt on now, and they'd put those ashes all over, and whenever they came to Dufferin Street all the kids would go up and stop them and say "don't put them on here" and they wouldn't put the ashes on Dufferin Street cause the kids would use that. Every winter they'd put those ashes on all the streets all around the Northend of the town there, but they wouldn't put them on Dufferin Street, so the kids could slide down on their sleighs. Another thing I remember about the depression...you see my dad worked all during the depression so he was very fortunate. Now we were fortunate because he could afford to buy us a bicycle during the depression, but all the kids on that street couldn't afford a bicycle so we never got a bicycle because those kids couldn't have one

R.H: You are talking about a two-wheel bike?

D.D: Two-wheel bike yeah. I think there's a difference in the way people think toward each other...In those days and the way we think toward each other now.

R.H: No one had a bicycle in the neighbourhood?

D.D: They couldn't afford one so we couldn't have one because that would make them feel...you know that wouldn't be right. My dad didn't feel it would be right that we should have one when they couldn't have one. So we just didn't have one, we didn't need one, so we didn't have one, and that wouldn't make them feel bad. So that...you know that type of a thought for the other people...that thoughtfulness for the other people. I don't think there exists the

same now a days as it did in those days. That's a general thing not just my dad, but everybody seemed to have that feeling for each other.

R.H: But you had a car, did a lot of people have cars?

D.D: We had a car but it was in the garage most of the time. What my dad used the car for...his car for was...he went to the store and he bought four and five boxes filled with groceries...then you could get a box full of groceries for about a dollar and a half or two dollars in those days, and he'd fill those four or five boxes and he'd put them in the car, and he would drive to some of the people he was working with that were out of work...there was no such a thing as welfare or unemployment insurance or any of that stuff in those days. He would take those boxes around, and my mother would ask them to take her out, and show her the garden or whatever they would be sowing...he would take that box and put it in their back stoop, and come out to join them and then they'd go away. They'd never know that they had put it there so that's what he used his car for. He walked to work.

R.H: People did it individually, so now they have organizations that do these things?

D.D: Well they had organizations as well in those days and he'd join with those...he gave to those as well. This was a little something extra. That's the kind of person he was, and the kind of a person a lot of the people were, thinking about other people.

R.H: You're saying the depression brought the people closer together, do you think so?

D.D: I think that it is an unfortunate situation that people have been deprived of a depression...one generation has been deprived of it...that were they have had to get down to were they had to really wonder if they were going to make it to the next day or so. Some of the people I've seen out behind the alley way picking out lettuce and stuff out the garbage...I don't like to see that sort of thing happen, but I think perhaps even if they could go some place, and live with people...like I went over to Spain, and lived over there. Go and live with some of the people over there and see what's it's like. We did have one another and I guess it was one of the most important...valuable things we had in those days, in the depression days was the feeling for...our most valuable possession

is the fact I think, that we had one another.

R.H: Did you have a telephone?

D.D: We had a telephone. A lot of people you know didn't.

R.H: Did other people use it, did the neighbours use your phone was that common?

D.D: Oh yeah.

R.H: The neighbours coming in using the phone?

D.D: Mother would have...anytime anyone was using the phone they were welcome to use it, and my mother would have food on the stove. Put it there all times of the day, because there were people coming along...there were unfortunate people coming along that was looking for something to eat. She'd bring them in and set the table for them and give them a meal and this was going on for three or four days a week, that somebody would come along and be hungry. She'd bring them in and feed them. Now if you bring somebody in they'd probably hold you up and beat you up, take all your stuff.

R.H: So you see there was quite a difference then?

D.D: I notice that difference, you want to be good to people, but then when you see what's happening where these people haven't had to to eh...suffer any hardships. You don't know what they're going to do, you can't predict people like you could in the old days.

R.H: During the depression, did any businesses close down?

D.D: No I didn't notice many businesses closing.

R.H: So some people were working?

D.D: Some people were working, like there was a great percentage of the people that weren't working. Everybody wasn't working, a great percentage of the people weren't working. People were on pensions, and railway pensions, and government pensions were always coming in and they were living like kings you know cause they had money. You could get somebody to work around your house and clean all your storm windows, and put them on or take them off or whatever for 25 cents for a whole day. That was a lot of money. They could take that 25 cents and you could buy a loaf of bread, I think that was around 9 cents, 8 or 9 cents. They could buy a bottle of milk I think it was for 9 or 12 cents.

R.H: Do you remember the Post Office, was it always on Jarvis Street?

D.D: No that Post Office wasn't there, it was built there. I'm trying

to think of where it was before now.

R.H: Do you remember where you got your stamps?

D.D: That's a good question. It's been there for so long that you just take it for granted...no that Post Office... I remember when that was built...no that was an opening we went through there when we went to school. There was a building there...there was an old garage back in there then, and there was a Canadian Tire started up. McCormick's, they had an old store over there on Courtwright Street.

R.H: What did they sell?

D.D: It was an old old...just like an old general store. Oh you'd walk in there like you were walking into the nineteen twenties or eighteens.

R.H: What did they carry, everything just about?

D.D: Just like the old stores. That just died away when the people died off. They just kept the building, they lived in the back, and had the store in front.

R.H: Where was that?

D.D: Courtwright Steet across from the I.G.A. Well it was right next to the parking lot. I think it was round in that area.

R.H: Was it husband and wife that owned it?

D.D: Yeah, One of the McCormick girls is still alive. I think she lives over on Highland, Bowen or Highland I guess somewhere. She's still alive, she would tell you about that.

R.H: Well that was a real interesting session today. I thank you very much, I really appreciate it.

D.D: Well it was my pleasure, it was nice to get back into part of our life that we sorta left behind.

R.H: It won't be left behind now.

D.D: Well it'll be there, but it will be left behind though.